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September 26, 1994

Ms. Jamie Granger
Westinghouse Hanford Company
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Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ms. Granger,

BIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE TANK WASTE REMEDIATION SYSTEM (TWRS) SITES, #94-WHC-142

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Significant portions of all three sites (referred to as A, B, and C) proposed for the tank waste remediation system (TWRS) contain substantial amounts of sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) steppe habitat (Figures 1, 2, and 3), which is considered a priority habitat by the state of Washington (Washington Department of Wildlife 1993a). Species of concern that were identified in the field survey of the TWRS sites are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Federal and state listed animal and plant species observed on or near TWRS sites A, B, and C.

Life form	Scientific name	Common name	Federal status ^a	State status ^b	Primary habitat ^c	Site Where Observed	Number of Sightings ^d
Plants	<i>Erigeron piperianus</i>	Piper's daisy	none	Sensitive	gravel ^e	A	observed
Birds	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	sage sparrow	none	Candidate	shrub steppe/ nest sites	A B C	2 9 3
	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	none	Candidate	trees and shrub steppe/nest sites	B	4 nest sites ^f
	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike	Candidate 2	Candidate	shrub steppe/ nest sites	A B C	3 7 4

^a Federal status for animal species taken from U. S. Department of Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 50 CFR 17 Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, Animal Candidate Review for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species, Proposed Rule, November 21, 1991.

^b State status for plant species taken from Washington Department of Natural Resources: Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington, 1994. State status for animal species taken from Washington Department of Wildlife: Species of Special Concern in Washington State - State and Federal Status, October 11, 1993.

^c Critical habitat for animal species taken from Washington Department of Wildlife: Priority Habitats and Species, November, 1993.

^d Sightings are the number of times the species was observed not numbers of nesting pairs.

^e Not designated as a critical habitat but rather as a substrate/habitat association.

^f Nests located during annual raptor surveys conducted from 1984-1991 by Pacific Northwest Laboratory. It is not known whether these nests were used in 1994. These nests could be used in the future.

